



# PRESS NOTICE

## BILL NETTLES UNITED STATES ATTORNEY DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **SPARTANBURG WOMAN GUILTY IN ONGOING MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR I.R.S. FRAUD PROSECUTION**

**Columbia, South Carolina**— United States Attorney Bill Nettles stated today that another individual has pled guilty to her role in a multi-million dollar I.R.S. fraud case. Lisa Mendoza, age 44, of Spartanburg, South Carolina pled guilty today in Federal Court for the District of South Carolina. Mendoza faces a possible sentence of up to five (5) years incarceration and a fine up to \$250,000.00. Mendoza will be sentenced at a later date by United States District Judge J. Michelle Childs. Assistant United States Attorney David C. Stephens, who has spearheaded the investigation, prosecuted the case.

Mr. Stephens advised the Court of the following facts. During a four-year period, Seguros Internacionales, a tax preparation business operating in

Spartanburg, South Carolina and Forest City, North Carolina, along with affiliated individuals, filed over 10,000 false Federal Income Tax Returns claiming between \$20 and \$30 Million in refunds. It appears at this time that in excess of \$10 Million in fraudulent refunds were paid out. The fraudulently claimed refunds were the result of the preparers knowingly claiming false deductions or credits to which the filer was not entitled. The falsities took many variations; a primary one being to claim credit for child care to which the filers was not entitled. This credit is one in which a person can obtain a "refund" even if no taxes have even been paid.

Mr. Stephens further advised the Court that Mendoza owned Seguros Internacionales and that she had agreed to make restitution in the amount of \$1 Million which reflected her role in the offense.

U.S. Attorney Nettles advised that 17 defendants have now been convicted in this series of prosecutions. He praised the investigation and prosecution of the matter stating that this was one of the largest tax fraud cases ever handled in South Carolina and that he was very proud of how it had been handled by everyone involved.

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